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**From:** Ross, Mary [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=98359CD1F66F46EC91D327E99A3C6909-ROSS, MARY]  
**Sent:** 5/9/2016 1:15:28 PM  
**To:** ORD-NCEA [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=9fd27be854b0475e8c7da44e626886aa-ORD-NCEA]  
**Subject:** FW: ORD/OSA Weekly

Many apologies – I just sent the wrong email


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**From:** Blackburn, Elizabeth  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 08, 2016 2:04 PM  
**To:** ORD-Exec-Council-Directors <Execcouncildirectors@usepa.onmicrosoft.com>; ORD-Mgmt-Council <ORDMgmtCouncil@epa.gov>; ORD-IOAA-Front Office Support <ORDIOAASUPPORT@epa.gov>; Benforado, Jay <Benforado.Jay@epa.gov>; Matthews, Lisa <Matthews.Lisa@epa.gov>; Gibbons, Dayna <Gibbons.Dayna@epa.gov>; Maguire, Megan <Maguire.Megan@epa.gov>; Maloney, Kelsey <Maloney.Kelsey@epa.gov>; Zambrana, Jose <Zambrana.Jose@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: ORD/OSA Weekly

Dear all

I hope you are enjoying this Mother's Day. Please see Tom's weekly note to the Administrator below.

Liz

Liz Blackburn  
Chief of Staff  
EPA Office of Research and Development  
202-564-2192  
Cell 2  Personal Matters / Ex. 6

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Burke, Thomas" <Burke.Thomas@epa.gov>  
**Date:** May 8, 2016 at 12:11:49 PM EDT  
**To:** "Adm13McCarthy, Gina" <Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov>, "Meiburg, Stan" <Meiburg.Stan@epa.gov>, "Fritz, Matthew" <Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov>, "Purchia, Liz" <Purchia.Liz@epa.gov>, "Vaught, Laura" <Vaught.Laura@epa.gov>, "Distefano, Nichole" <DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov>, "Beauvais, Joel" <Beauvais.Joel@epa.gov>, "Jones, Jim" <Jones.Jim@epa.gov>, "Rupp, Mark" <Rupp.Mark@epa.gov>, "Giles-AA, Cynthia" <Giles-AA.Cynthia@epa.gov>, "Flynn, Mike" <Flynn.Mike@epa.gov>, "Garbow, Avi" <Garbow.Avi@epa.gov>, "Ragland, Micah" <Ragland.Micah@epa.gov>, "Pieh, Luseni" <Pieh.Luseni@epa.gov>, "McCabe, Janet" <McCabe.Janet@epa.gov>, "Garvin, Shawn" <garvin.shawn@epa.gov>, "Curry, Ron" <Curry.Ron@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** "Kavlock, Robert" <Kavlock.Robert@epa.gov>, "Kadeli, Lek" <Kadeli.Lek@epa.gov>, "Robbins, Chris" <Robbins.Chris@epa.gov>, "Blackburn, Elizabeth" <Blackburn.Elizabeth@epa.gov>, "Deener, Kathleen" <Deener.Kathleen@epa.gov>, "Corona, Elizabeth" <Corona.Elizabeth@epa.gov>, "Hubbard, Carolyn" <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>, "Kim, Hyon" <Kim.Hyon@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** ORD/OSA Weekly

Administrator,

This week we will continue to work closely with OP, OLEM, OCSPP, and OW to provide scientific and technical support for Agency activities, including lead, PFOA/PFOS, glyphosate and chlorpyrifos. We are also coordinating with OAR and Region 6 to assist Louisiana DEQ in addressing chloroprene emissions.

I look forward to our group discussion tomorrow on the data access plan.

Last week I announced the retirement of Dr. Ken Olden. Ken is a renowned leader in environmental science and we have been fortunate to have him Director of our National Center for Environmental Assessment. He plans to step down at the end of July. We are moving ahead establishing a search committee to fill this critical position.

## **Flint**

ORD scientists continue to provide support to the Flint response. I will be meeting with CDC to discuss the status of their ongoing efforts. OPA has posted the Recurring Chlorine Monitoring Map and associated information on EPA's Flint website.

## **Lead in Schools**

ORD met last week with the State of New Hampshire and the State of New York to provide input on revisions to an investigative sampling protocol for lead in schools.

## **Tire Crumb**

This week ORD and OLEM participated in calls with Sprinturf and FieldTurf, two of the largest US manufacturers and installers of synthetic turf in the US, as well as Penn State's Sports Surface Research Center to further our understanding of tire crumb manufacturing, processing and use. The external peer review of the federal research plan begins this week. The comment period for the *Federal Register* notice closed on May 2 and we are currently reviewing the 72 public comments.

### **State Engagement on Draft Hydraulic Fracturing Well File Review Report**

On May 3, ORD presented preliminary observations from the second Well File Review report to 17 representatives from nine state oil and gas and environmental protection agencies. The purpose of the meeting was to share preliminary observations from the second Well File Review report and to solicit feedback from the states regarding their experiences. The feedback from the states generally indicated agreement with the preliminary observations and their feedback will be considered as the Well File Review team prepares a draft report for external peer review.

### **Contaminant Tracer Study in the New York City Subway**

Next week EPA staff from ORD, Region 2, and OEM are collaborating in a DHS-led study to assess the movement of contaminants released in the NYC-Manhattan subway system. This study is part of the DHS and EPA collaborative Underground Transport Restoration Project. The overall goal of the Project is to develop capabilities to enable the rapid return to service of subway systems following the release of a biological agent. In New

York City, an innovative, particulate-based, DNA “bar-coded” simulant will be released at several underground subway stations. The transport of the particulate will be followed over a week using air, surface and passenger clothing samples.

### **Ft. Riley NetZero Green Infrastructure Project**

May 9-13, ORD, with analytical support from Region 7 staff, will perform round 2 of the sampling of the vadose zone and ground water monitoring network installed to evaluate water quality and the performance of a stormwater recharge gallery associated with a permeable parking lot. We are working with the Region and base to evaluate the levels and source of uranium that were detected in the first round of samples. Naturally occurring uranium is known to be present in the area and has been previously detected in groundwater sources.

### **IRIS Public Science Meeting**

On May 10, the IRIS Program will convene a public science meeting to discuss the public comment draft of the Hexahydro-1,3,5-trinitro-1,3,5-triazine (RDX) assessment. The National Academy of Sciences has identified several independent experts to ensure an informative discussion on the draft assessment.

### **Engineering Technical Support Center Consultation on CTS of Asheville, Inc. Superfund site, Asheville, NC**

Region 4 requested expert information from ORD on trichloroethylene contamination in the soils and ground water at the CTS site. ORD provided background information on the electroplating manufacturing process, contamination resulting from those operations, and the potential use of forensics to differentiate the sources of the

contamination. This site is the former location of International Resistance Company's metal plating operations, which took place from 1959 to 1986. The CTS site was placed on the National Priorities List in 2012.

### **Technical Assistance to Department of Defense on Military Ordnance Disposal Clean Up Issues in Puerto Rico**

ORD is advising EPA's Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Office, who is coordinating with the Navy, Department of the Interior, and the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality to address military ordnance disposed at the site at Vieques Island, PR. Vieques, listed on the National Priorities List in 2005, was the site of US Navy live-fire exercises until 2003. EPA has allocated \$20K to support community involvement in the investigation and cleanup.

### **Science and Technology Policy Council (STPC)**

On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, OSA posted the revised STPC Charter online. On May 5, Inside EPA ( Risk Policy) reported that the Agency Science Advisor has reformulated the Science and Technology Policy Council, reinstating a staff-level support committee to STPC. The article also praises the addition of the Laboratory Enterprise Forum, an effort that follows on White House and congressional efforts as well as the improved consensus building and decision-making.

### **The EnviroAtlas Classroom Guide**

ORD staff, ORISE participants and ASPPH Fellows have developed a classroom guide, *Building a Greenway: Using EnviroAtlas in the Classroom*. The guide includes a case

study that can be completed in a 45-minute class and other activities that can broaden the case study's scope. The case study explores a range of topics including health benefits, decision making and environmental justice, and was designed to meet a number of secondary education curriculum requirements including applied science, environmental science, information and technology, civics, humanities, human health, literacy, math and engineering.

### **US Department of State Embassy Science Fellow Program**

Two ORD scientists have been selected to the US Department of State Embassy Science Fellow (ESF) Program. The ESF program provides expertise in science, mathematics, and engineering to support the work of embassies, consulates, and missions of the State Department while providing international experience to EPA staff: Steve Rock will participate as a visiting scientist/consultant in the Pacific island state of Koror, Republic of Palau. He will assist the Ministry of Education in developing its school curriculum to include the science of climate adaptation as well as the health and climate benefits of eating locally-sourced foods. Mark Rodgers has been selected to participate as a visiting scientist in Accra, Ghana to work on Water Safety issues to improve the laboratory capacity of drinking water quality laboratories.

### **Publications**

#### **Article on Association of U.S. Dust Storms and Mortality**

Dust storms have been shown to have health impacts and are likely to increase in frequency as a result of anthropogenic climate change. The purpose of the manuscript is to examine the association between dust storms and non-accidental mortality over the entire

United States and in the two states with the largest number of dust storms, Arizona and California. This work may inform U.S. Global Change Research Program climate/health assessments and may be relevant to policy-making regarding climate change. *James Lewis Crooks, Wayne E. Cascio, Madelyn S. Percy, Jeanette Reyes, Lucas M. Neas, Elizabeth D. Hilborn. The Association between Dust Storms and Daily Non-Accidental Mortality in the United States, 1993-2005. Environmental Health Perspectives* (<http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/wp-content/uploads/advpub/2016/4/EHP216.acco.pdf>).

### **Grantee Publication: Climate Change, Extreme Heat, and Older Homes**

In light of growing concern for extreme heat from climate change, researchers led by Marie O'Neil at the University of Michigan examined Medicare records, weather data, and satellite land-use images for 109 cities between 1992 and 2006. During extreme heat days, hospitalizations for renal, heat and respiratory symptoms increased by 15% in ZIP codes with higher percentage of older homes (built prior to 1940) vs. a 9% increase where older homes were less common. Such older buildings are known from housing surveys to be half as likely to have air conditioning. People over 78, identified as black, or living in neighborhoods with high percentage of residents with low socio-economic status were also found to be more vulnerable to hospitalizations associated with extreme heat.